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Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 25, 2004

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**BRONX DENTIST ARRESTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES FOR
SUBMITTING FRAUDULENT CLAIMS FOR PERIODONTAL TREATMENT**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and PASQUALE D'AMURO, the Assistant Director In Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau Of Investigation ("FBI"), announced that LAWRENCE WHITE, a dentist in the Bronx, was arrested today on charges of health care fraud and false statements relating to health care matters.

A criminal Complaint unsealed today in Manhattan federal court charges WHITE with submitting numerous false claims for reimbursement to Medicaid and several private insurance companies for a dental procedure known as periodontal scaling and root planing ("PSRPs").

According to the Complaint, PSRP is a treatment for individuals who suffer from periodontal disease, a condition marked by inflammation of the gums, detachment of the gums from the tooth, and bone loss. In a PSRP procedure, which is typically performed on only one quadrant, or quarter, of the mouth at a time, a dentist uses dental instruments to remove plaque and calculus, according to

the Complaint, and due to the difficulty of the procedure and the pain associated with it, dentists typically perform PSRP on no more than two quadrants of the mouth in a single patient visit.

The Complaint charges that from mid-1997 through October 2003, WHITE submitted numerous phony claims for PSRP procedures that he never performed. Many of these claims were for PSRPs performed on all four quadrants of a patient's mouth in a single visit to WHITE's office, according to the charges.

The Complaint alleges that the FBI has conducted interviews of more than 20 of WHITE's patients for whom WHITE claimed payment for PSRP procedures and they maintain that they never had the procedure performed in any of their visits to WHITE's office.

Among the insurance companies to which WHITE allegedly submitted fraudulent PSRP claims are Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, Aetna, CignaDental, MetLife, and Empire Blue Cross. The complaint also alleges that WHITE submitted fraudulent claims to Medicaid.

WHITE, 49, resides in Fort Lee, New Jersey.

WHITE is charged with one count of health care fraud and one count of false statements in connection with health care matters. If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in jail on the health care fraud charge and five years on the false statement charge plus a fine of the greater of a \$250,000

fine or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crimes on each count

Assistant United States Attorney JONATHAN ABERNETHY is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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